

Coombeshead Academy

Newsletter - July 2025



Dear families,

We have had a wonderful term, overflowing with exciting events and activities, most of which are outlined in this newsletter.

Performing Arts have been extremely busy playing at Devon County Show, doing performances for our primary schools and we have also had a wonderful end of term production "Little Shop of Horrors" that had an outstanding cast that was unbelievably professional.

The Create department have held numerous events including their summer show where students' talent was showcased across the range of creative strands. Students have also been involved in working with talented artist Jamie Lake.

We have welcomed our Year 6 students to Coombeshead on our "Step-up" and "Rising stars" days. It's been lovely to introduce them to our culture and values focussing on "The Coombeshead Way". They experienced a range of exciting lessons and what it is like being in a secondary school environment. We were so proud of their focus and determination and look forward to welcoming them in September.

Our Year 5 Open Mornings have also been a huge success. Hundreds of families have visited the school via open mornings and individual tours; we are looking forward to a very full year group in September 2026. Our student ambassadors who guide the families around the school were exemplary and we had a huge amount of positive feedback about them from our guests.

We also trialled a Year 7 "Bring your family to school" event where family members came into school and spent a morning in lessons with their children. They participated in Food, Science and Art – an amazing day was had by all.

We have said a fond "Goodbye" and "Good luck" to our Year 13 and 11 students. Both year groups have been phenomenal in terms of their work ethic and effort, and I know already they will have a bumper crop of exam results. We look forward to welcoming some of our Year 11s back into Year 12 in September 2025. There are still places available so please let us know if you are interested in returning to us. Students also had a lovely time at their leaver's events in the form of BBQs, Pool Parties and Proms, everyone looked amazing, and a great time was had by all! Good luck to all collecting results in the summer.

Please be aware that results days are:

- A levels/Level 3 qualifications are on Thursday 14th August 2025 from 9am in the Study Cafe
- GCSEs are on Thursday 21st August from 9am in the Study Cafe We look forward to welcoming lots of our students back into the sixth form.

We have also hosted two awards evenings – the Sports Awards and the whole school Annual Award evening. Well done to all who received an award, but also to the wider student population for having an outstanding year.

Finally, we wanted to say thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you all have a lovely summer break, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all students back for the new academic year On Thursday 4th September 2025 at 8.40am. Years 7 to 10 need go straight to their dedicated line up area and Year 11 to their tutor bases. For Year 11, their additional lesson 6 will run from the first day.

Best wishes,

Helen Coulson – Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION / CONTACTS

- MASH - Devon County Council Safeguarding Hub. If you are worried about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety - 0345 155 1071
- mashsecure@devon.gov.uk
- Outside of office hours contact Emergency Duty Team - 0845 6000 388
- Childline - 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
- KOOTH - The Kooth team provide free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling. The whole team are made up of friendly and experienced individuals who want to help. www.kooth.com
- SHOUT/ Crisis Text Line - Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Free text 85258
- Police - 999 (emergency)/101
- Chat Health - Young people aged 11-19 can text a school nurse for confidential advice and support. Text 07520 631722 for advice on things like relationships, bullying, mental health, self-harm, drugs/alcohol.

SAFEGUARDING - SUMMER

Summer Safety information

As we approach the summer holidays, please find attached to this newsletter contact details of various groups and organisations that can offer advice and support around safety and well-being if needed.

See below for useful links and resources about safety at the beach and in local waterways as well as key information around sun safety. Have a wonderful summer break. Relax, have fun and stay safe!

Water Safety

It is perfectly natural to want to cool off when it's hot. Unsuitable rivers and quarries hide dangers below, not taking into account the hazards of freezing cold water and currents. Teenagers especially are drawn in by peers and a keenness for risky behaviours.

With limited swimming over the last few years, it will be important to remind young people how to stay safe in or alongside water.

Water Safety at the beach

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety-at-the-beach>

Canal and River Trust - Summer water safety

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/summer-water-safety>

SAFEGUARDING - SUMMER

Sun Safety

The Teenage Cancer Trust found that nearly two-thirds (61%) of young people aged 13-24 have avoided using sunscreen in order to get a better tan. As the weather gets hotter in the UK, we need to be more knowledgeable about keeping safe in the sun than ever before.

The damage done to young skin can lead to skin cancer developing in later life, so it's vital to help young people protect themselves in the sun.

Teenage Cancer Trust Resources

<https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/support-us/spread-word/shunburn-stay-safe-sun>

Mental Health & Me
July issue

NHS
Mental Health Support Team

Why do we need to take care of our mental health in the holidays?

Hello and happy July from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST)!

This month's issue is going to be about...

Looking after your Mental Health during the summer holidays!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!

What might help...

Here are some tips to help you stay mentally healthy over the summer:

1. **Connect with friends and family** – this can be in person or online.
2. **Get outside** – whether it's going for a walk or sitting outside, being in the fresh air is proven to help improve your mood.
3. **Art – get creative!** Arts and crafts is a great way to relax and focus your mind.
4. **Try to maintain a routine** – morning and bedtime routines are especially helpful.
5. **Plan one thing to do each day** so that each day has a focus
6. **Set yourself a project or goal to achieve** over the summer holidays, whether it's learning a new skill or completing unfinished tasks.

Don't forget to keep using the 10-a-day to help look after your mental health.

'10 a day' choices towards balancing our mental health

1. Talk about your feelings
2. Do something you enjoy and are good at
3. Keep yourself hydrated
4. Eat well!
5. Keep active in mind and body
6. Take a break
7. Stay connected to those you care about
8. Ask for help
9. Be proud of your very being
10. Actively care for others

If you need support for your mental health, please speak to a trusted adult at school or at home.

Call 111 and select option 2 for mental health. In an emergency, call 999.

YEAR 9 COOMBESHEAD SCHOLARS - SIXTH FORM

A group of year 9 geographers who have chosen the subject for one of their GCSE options were invited to an A level geography lesson on Friday 11th July to gain an insight into what studying the subject in the sixth form might be like. These were the first of our "Coombeshead Scholars" whom we hope to see in our sixth form in a few years' time. More groups of Scholars in more subjects will follow from next year's year 9 as we invite them onto the path to sixth form. Mr. Doxford ran a special session with the Scholars and his Year 12 class up in sixth form, with the year 9 students really enjoying the experience. Thank you to all involved in showcasing the first steps to post-16 with our Coombeshead Scholars.

YEAR 10 SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

On Monday 7th July our year 10s had a sixth form taster day event where they got the full experience of being in the sixth form for the day. They followed the sixth form dress code, had access to the sixth form rooms and facilities and attended lessons from A-level and other level 3 courses of their choice throughout the day. There was also an Employability Skills session designed to really help put the students' post-16 choices into the wider perspective of future higher education and employment. The students engaged brilliantly with the day with some even asking if they could start in the sixth form now! We look forward to seeing them again on our Open Evening early next term and receiving applications from them once they open next year!



YEAR 11 TRANSITION - SIXTH FORM



PREPARING FOR YOUR POST-16 STUDIES

Please access your chosen
subjects' transition work using
the QR code:



TRANSITION TASKS HAVE BEEN
CREATED TO PROVIDE AN
INTRODUCTION TO EACH OF
YOUR LEVEL 3 COURSES:

Thank you to all of our prospective year 12 students who came along to our transition morning on Friday 11th July. Students were talked through the expectations of the sixth form and given the information needed to make a successful start with us in September. This was also an opportunity for us to provide them with work for the summer to support them in their chosen post-16 courses. We look forward to seeing you all on results day and in September starting with us!

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE - SIXTH FORM

A final word to wish our year 12s luck on their work experience placements in the final week of term. Placements have been secured by the students in a range of areas including in Primary Schools, Mental Health Support, Garages, the NHS, Pharmacies, Hospitality and many more. We hope they have a fantastic time, gain lots of experience and develop their skills throughout their placements.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Y10 and Y12 students have been very busy out and about completing a weeklong period of work experience in the final week of term. This extremely useful insight into the world of work has involved over 150 students completing placements on a local, regional and national level. Placements have included Devon and Cornwall Police, Bovey Castle Hotel, Devon County Council, Torquay United as well as a wide range of work placements in other sectors including hospitality, construction, education, animal care and sports and leisure. We would like to say a huge thank you to all employers who have been able to offer placements to all of our students.

For those Y10 students in school, they have been completing workshops on employment skills such as CV writing. Students have also had the opportunity to engage in virtual work experience as well.



WORK EXPERIENCE



WORK EXPERIENCE



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

To celebrate the end of a successful academic year, all students in Years 7 - 9 have been taking part in a range of enrichment activities during the last week of term. Students have had the opportunity to take part in trips to London, the Midlands, Splash-down and to Exmouth for a water sports experience. Y7 students have taken part in their residential visit to Exmouth. For those students at school, much fun has been had with the Festival of Sport, a 9-mile walking challenge led by Mr Graham as well as a range of team building challenges on site.

Thank you to all staff for organising the activities. We hope that students have had a fabulous end to the school year!



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - SPLASH DOWN YEAR 8 AND 9



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - THE WALK



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - THE WALK



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - LONDON



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - LONDON



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - LONDON



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - MIDLANDS



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES - YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL



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REWARDS - YEAR 7 POOL PARTY

Well done to 44 amazing year 7 students who, as a reward for ZERO negative points for the whole year, had a pool party lesson 5 today!

Looked like they had a fantastic time in the sun!



HOUSE OLYMPICS

Well done to everyone for a fantastic House Olympics!

There was a festival atmosphere and students worked incredibly hard in very warm conditions. We saw amazing sportsmanship and the students were amazing at supporting each other and cheering their team mates on in the events. The level of kindness and friendship was lovely to see.

	Ali	Christie	Nightingale	Beethoven	Franklin	Einstein
	1215	1006	981	984	1102	1049
FINAL STANDINGS	1	4	6	5	2	3



HOUSE OLYMPICS



HOUSE OLYMPICS



YEAR 7 'BRING YOUR PARENT TO SCHOOL' DAY

We had huge success on 2 July with our Year 7 "Bring your parent to school" event.

At Coombeshead Academy we are keen to work in close partnership with our families to help them understand what a day in the life of a student looks like and how they can positively engage and support their child and the school.

This morning we invited around 50 Year 7 families into Coombeshead Academy and into their children's lessons to experience the high quality teaching and learning we provide alongside the caring, supportive culture that we have developed between students and staff.

Families and students participated in a range of lessons including making and testing electrical circuits in Science, baking crumble cakes in Food, to experimenting with colour combination in Art. We had a little break halfway through for a coffee and a cookie and then continued onto more lessons.

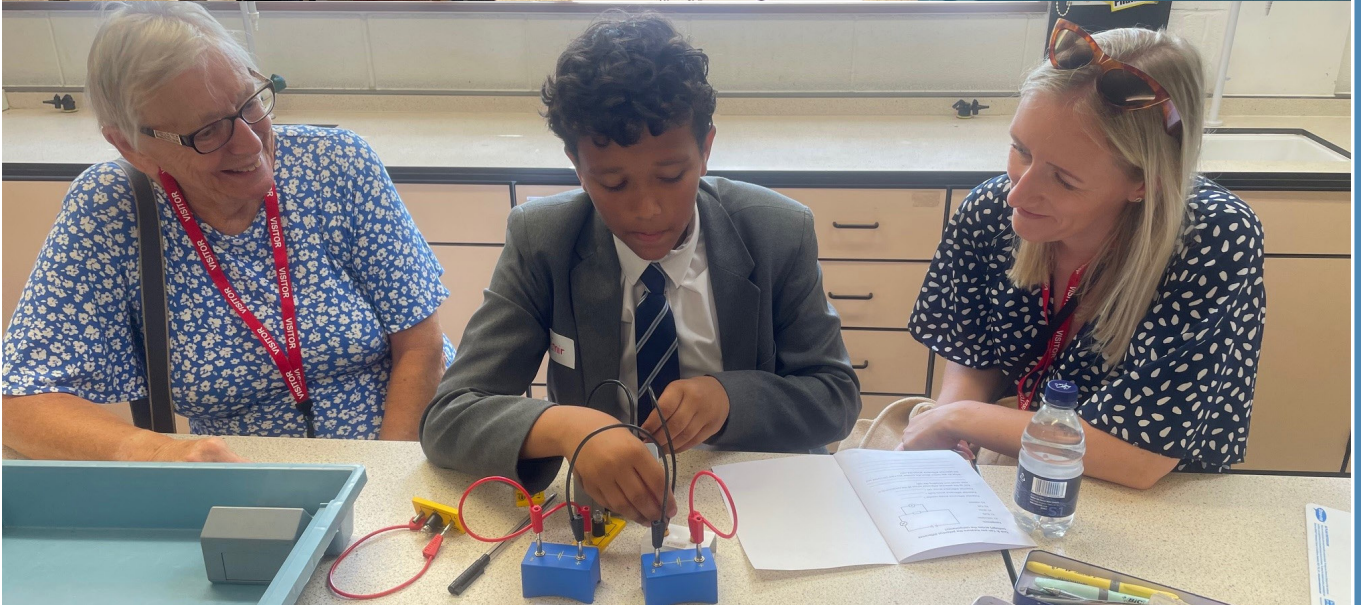
We wanted to say a huge thank you to the families who visited us and we hope they had a lovely and insightful morning. I also want to thank the Year 9 student ambassadors who supported the event and the staff running the lessons – they were all amazing!!

We had such positive feedback from parents about the event including:

- Enjoyable being a 'fly on the wall' and seeing how school has changed. Very enjoyable. Thank you for the event. Huge thank you.
- Everything. It was wonderful. Thank you so much. It was so lovely to spend time with my child and to see school from their point of view.
- Getting to see my child learn and be part of that process.
- It is encouraging to observe the positive interactions among the children in the classroom.
- I liked seeing some lessons in progress, I liked seeing my child working with others and doing practical work.



YEAR 7 'BRING YOUR PARENT TO SCHOOL' DAY



BUSHELL THEATRE YOUTH ORCHESTRA SUMMER CONCERT

On Monday 14th July, our community orchestra presented their summer concert. We performed a number of pieces which all had a link to either TV or movie soundtracks. The performance was very well received by the audience and you can certainly hear how much the orchestra has developed and improved over the past year. We have secured funding for another year, so we are looking forward to being able to develop and grow further into the next academic year



CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

Earlier this year, we were invited to be part of the Climate Change Project, where the aim was for all pupils involved to have an opportunity to voice their views on climate change and how it is affecting them.

A group of keen year 8 pupils worked closely with three music educators on writing and developing their own composition, which was called Construction. This all culminated in a big performance evening held at Teign School on Thursday 3rd July. The other schools involved were, Teign School, Rydon Primary School and Kingsteignton Primary School.

All pupils across all schools were excellent and showed they have a real awareness of the importance of climate change and how it affects everyone. We would like to thank The Helen Foundation for their support in making this event happen.



REVIEW OF LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Coombeshead Academy's summer production of Little Shop of Horrors was performed at Bushell Theatre on 8th, 9th and 10th July. It was a vibrant, energetic and very funny production. All of the students have worked extremely hard to create the exaggerated characters that help transport the audience into the world of Seymour, Audrey and of course, the Plant. There was an excellent combination of acting, singing and dancing.

The staging was excellent and the lighting, sound and the live music was of a very high standard

The principal characters of Seymour (Tom M), Audrey (Ella Marie K), Audrey 2 – the Plant (Rhi C and Harmony H), The Dentist (Lily W), Mrs Mushnik (Ruby W) and the Ronnettes (Isobelle S, Kira S, Chloe C, Phoebe S and Rosie C) showed impressive individual characterisations and they worked flawlessly together showing a real sense of unity, to ensure the production was of a great standard. The vocal skills of individual students were particularly impressive.

The live band was superb every night having spent a considerable amount of time rehearsing to ensure the professional standard was reached. 7 musicians made up the ensemble and the level of musicianship presented was of a very high standard. It has been a delight to work on this project and to have achieved a production of such a high standard. We are very proud of all the students involved!

Andy Tyner (Musical Director)



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Well done to everyone on an absolutely amazing show!

HITS FOOD BANK

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the food collection in school, really appreciated.

A group of Year 9 Diversity ambassadors went to deliver the donations to the food-bank HITS which helps people in need across Teignbridge, including some of our students and their families. The students were given a tour of the premises and they learnt about the multiple services provided by this local charity. They also helped packing some food parcels alongside the volunteers there. Our students were praised for their impeccable conduct and effective teamwork. It has been a positive and insightful experience for all involved, a practical example of community engagement that we'd like to develop further.



THE HUMAN LIBRARY

The diversity work in school aims to educate students by providing them with the knowledge to understand and respect differences. It is also about celebrating and valuing the diverse identities represented within our school community. Students are invited to give presentations about their personal experience, based on the 'human library' concept that helps to challenge prejudices through open conversations. For example this term Elliott (Year 7) kindly agreed to share his story as a disabled student and wheelchair user. Ini (Year 10), who is from Zimbabwe, presented about the history and significance of African braided hair. Aisha (Year 9) explained the secret language of henna, linked to her family heritage in Qatar and Sri Lanka.

These sessions have proved very popular, watch this space for more of them being organised in the next academic year.



YEAR 10 STUDENTS WORKING WITH A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Our students had taken part in a workshop working with artist Jame Lake. This amazing experience funded by The Helen Foundation, has given our students this wonderful opportunity to work with a professional artist, teaching them valuable skills to help them with their creative GCSEs.

Thank you so much to artist James Lake for your knowledge and professionalism, our students had a great few days learning from you. And thank you to Daisi Arts for your support in making this happen!



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AND CLIMATE IN COMMUNITY ART SHOWCASE

More than 150 young artists from local schools, including Coombeshead Academy, part of Education South West, had their work proudly displayed at this year's Big Green Exhibition, with over 140 visitors attending the opening day to celebrate the students' creative talents and climate-conscious thinking.

Held at Gallery Paradiso in Bovey Tracey, a thriving arts centre housed in a restored historic building, the exhibition brought together artwork exploring nature, sustainability, and the environment.

Alongside viewing the gallery, children also enjoyed a hands-on workshop at the gallery, adding new creations to the growing collection of green-themed art.

Due to the overwhelming success of the event, the exhibition has been extended for an additional week, with the gallery open on Wednesday and Thursday (10am–1pm), allowing more families to visit.

The schools involved look forward to continuing their collaboration with the gallery in future projects that connect learning, the arts, and the environment.

Helen Coulson, Headteacher at Coombeshead Academy, said:

"We are so proud of our students for their thoughtful and imaginative contributions. Events like this give children a powerful platform to express their views on the environment and share their work with the wider community. Seeing them inspired and celebrated in a public space is incredibly special."



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AND CLIMATE IN COMMUNITY ART SHOWCASE



SPORTS AWARDS

We held our annual sports awards on Tuesday 24th June to celebrate all the sporting success of this academic year. The evening consisted of a mixture of match reports and awards. Well done to all nominations and winners.

Award winners:

Players Player: Immy C

Most improved: Boy- Sofia I Girl- Charlie P

Leader of the Year: Lillie B-H

Sportsman of the year: Eddie M

Sportswomen of the year: Chloe HH

Curriculum award: Willow W & Jack C

Sarah Howison Award: Harriet R

Outside Achievement award: Abraxas M

Sports teams of the year:

Boys- Year 7 Football team

Girls- Year 7 Netball Team

Sports Captains: Will G & Elsie H



COOMBESHEAD SCHOOL AWARDS

We held our annual whole school awards on Tuesday 17 June to celebrate all the amazing academic, community and endeavour success of this year. The evening was amazing with a packed theatre of parents and students celebrating their achievements this academic year. Well done to all nominations and winners. It was a joy to share and celebrate in each of your achievements.



COOMBESHEAD SCHOOL AWARDS



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COOMBESHEAD SCHOOL AWARDS

Awards Evening



Awards Evening



COOMBESHEAD SCHOOL AWARDS



YEAR 11 PROM

27/06/25



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM

27/06/25



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM

YEAR 11 PROM

27/06/25



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM

27/06/25



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM



VIP

COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PROM